



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the brave  
3 men and women who honorably serve in our nation's armed forces;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The trials faced by our servicemen and women in  
6 the field are shared by their families who endure for months or  
7 years at a stretch the uncertainty of not knowing when, or if,  
8 their loved ones will return; and

9 WHEREAS, The news to a family that their loved one has been  
10 killed in service is, sadly, just the first terrible blow to  
11 the survivors, for they often face long-term financial  
12 struggles resulting from the loss of a wage-earning spouse or  
13 family member; and

14 WHEREAS, Many surviving family members, veterans groups,  
15 and legislators have long believed that the death payment  
16 provided to service members' families, currently set at  
17 \$12,420, is woefully inadequate; and

18 WHEREAS, Properly taking care of service personnel and  
19 their families will, over the long term, undoubtedly raise the  
20 morale of our troops stationed all over the world by providing  
21 them with the comfort of knowing their families will be taken  
22 care of should they die while serving their country; and

23 WHEREAS, It is reported that President Bush will propose a  
24 sizeable increase, to \$100,000, of the death benefit payment as  
25 part of the 2006 budget submitted to Congress; as part of this  
26 proposal, the Pentagon would also increase life insurance  
27 benefits from the current \$250,000 of coverage to \$400,000 and  
28 troops in a combat zone would have the additional premiums paid  
29 for by the government; the proposal would be retroactive to  
30 October 7, 2001 and would apply to families of U.S. troops

1 killed in war; and

2 WHEREAS, Even though no amount of money can replace a  
3 spouse or loved one, an increase in the death payment and life  
4 insurance benefits provided to the family members of those  
5 servicemen and women who die while on active duty would help  
6 alleviate the overwhelming impact their families face; and

7 WHEREAS, While the President's proposal is a much-needed  
8 measure, the benefits for surviving families should not be  
9 determined by mere geography of where death occurred, but  
10 rather, benefits should be extended to all servicemen and women  
11 who equally defend the freedom of this country in a profession  
12 fraught with danger no matter where they are stationed;  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we hereby commend the President on his initiative to increase  
17 the death payment and the life insurance benefit package to  
18 assist families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice;  
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge the President and the Congress to  
21 broaden the President's budget proposal to provide the same  
22 financial increases to all military personnel who die in the  
23 line of duty while performing military service for our country,  
24 whether here or on foreign soil; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
26 delivered to President Bush and the Illinois Congressional  
27 Delegation as a sign of our commitment to this important issue.